In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph in the "Cross-reference to related cases" section with the following:

This is a continuation of Application Serial No. 10/085,176, filed on February 27, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,702,332, which is a divisional of Application Serial No. 09/422,480, filed on October 21, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,370,730, which is a continuation in part of Application Serial No. 09/141,545, filed on August 28, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,115,881, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated by reference.

At page 6, please add the following after the paragraph that begins on line 11:

FIG. 15 shows a side view of an alternative adaptor for connecting to a hose.

At pages 16-17, beginning at line 16, please make the following amendments:

Adapting end 420 of adapter 400, also shown in FIG. 13, is configured so as to permanently lock adapter 400 ~~100~~ into place onto a friction-based vacuum connecting receptacle 490. Flaps 440 at the end of adapting side 420 operate to latch adapter 400 onto the end of a friction-based vacuum connecting receptacle 490 when adapting side 420 of adapter 400 is inserted into the connecting receptacle. This thus gives a consumer the advantage of upgrading an older, friction-fit wet/dry vacuum without the expense of purchasing a new unit having a hose lock feature as disclosed herein.

Adapter 400 may be made of plastic, and may be designed to fit all embodiments of receptacle 150. One skilled in the art having the benefit of this disclosure will appreciate that an alternative embodiment of adapter 400 can be configured to attach to

the vacuum end of a friction based hose connection member such that a friction-based hose can be adapted for use with a wet/dry vacuum having a locking attachment as disclosed herein. FIG. 15 illustrates such an embodiment, in which the adaptor 400 includes the locking lever 100 and flaps 440 that are received by the hose 202.